

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. From the spring of 1953 onwards the tendency of the Society for German-Soviet Friendship has been to stress both the effectiveness of cultural work and also, as a new departure, the importance of arousing national pride among the German population. This new line, the awakening of patriotism, was represented as the main task of the Society at the 4th Congress, held in May 1953. In addition, emphasis was again placed on work in specialized fields, such as among doctors, sculptors, scientists, and teachers. After June this new line was stressed even more strongly. In propaganda activities directed at the West, the policy was to form study groups on special subjects for the purely technical and factual discussion of Soviet trends and achievements in the subject concerned. (Such a method of working would have been regarded two years previously as a retreat in the face of the enemy.) A further consequence of the June uprising was an expansion of work in factories. Whereas previously only the very large factories, with 8-10,000 employees, had fully employed political functionaries available for the work of the Society, today such functionaries are to be made available in large numbers for middle-sized factories. In Berlin alone there is a deficiency of 30 secretaries for factory groups. In order to get around these personnel problems, the tendency is to employ political functionaries of the Ost CDU, NDP, and LDP. Previously 98% of all political workers were members of the SED, but today the main reservoir is the NDP.
2. This year the month of German-Soviet Friendship is to be celebrated from 1 November to 20 November instead of being linked to dates in Russian history. Previously the month began on 7 November, the anniversary of the Revolution, and continued until 5 December, the day of Stalin's constitution, or until 21 December, Stalin's birthday. The intention is to avoid the constant emphasis on the Soviet Union as the example to be followed. On the contrary, it should be stressed that Germany and the Soviet Union are the two strongest powers in Europe. Slogans in use before Stalin's death, such as "The USSR, the best friend of the German people", are to be relegated to the background and the emphasis should be placed on Germany's independent position as a great power.

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3. Since 17 June a considerable difference has been noticeable in the relation between Germans and Russians. This began at the time of the military emergency, when scenes of informal and spontaneous fraternization took place. After this, parties from various military units stationed in and around Berlin were allowed to visit the Houses of Friendship and Culture. The soldiers were chiefly komso-mols and picked men. In the DDR, where there are still military control offices, friendship agreements were made between the Red Army and the Society for German-Soviet Friendship. These referred chiefly to cultural affairs and sport. At present a friendship agreement is being considered by the Central Committee of the Society and by the Soviet authorities. This agreement will cover the following points: friendly meetings on a large scale between Germans and members of the Red Army in Berlin; the bringing together of individual study and discussion groups such as authors, housewives, and young people; and the holding of lectures by Soviet scientists in German institutes. Soviet citizens are to be admitted to nearly all functions in the Houses of Friendship. Finally, German guests, cultural groups, and lecturers are to take part in the programmes for the Soviet Army clubs.
4. All functions of this kind are to be planned and organized exclusively by the Society for German-Soviet Friendship. Even the SED is entitled to address requests for Soviet cooperation to the Soviet authorities only through the Society. The Society is responsible for all Germans present at their functions irrespective of which organization they belong to. Requests for visits by scientists or cultural groups from the Soviet Union are made through Comrade Sotikov, Soviet Liaison Officer to the Central Committee of the Society.
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